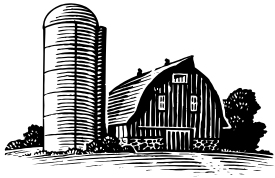




SEPTEMBER 2006

Labette County News



Labette County FSA
115 W. 4th St
PO Box 437
Altamont, KS 67330
620-784-5431 phone
620-784-5900 fax

Visit us online at
www.fsa.usda.gov or
email at
kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov

Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.

County Committee:
Terry Gossard, Chair
David Dhooghe, Vice
Darlene Ferguson

County Committee meets
the 1st and 3rd Wednes-
days of the month

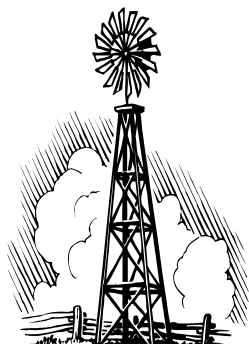
Office Staff:
Kitra Cooper, CED
Sally McKinzie, PT
Annetta Henry, PT
Dawn Thompson, PT

Field Staff:
Leon Pearce
Trey Thompson

Quote of the day:

"Farming looks
mighty easy when
your plow is a pencil,
and you're a thou-
sand miles from the
corn field."

— **Dwight D. Ei-
senhower**



LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDP'S) PAYING RECENTLY

LDP's have been in effect intermittently the last few weeks for corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans and eligible producers are taking advantage of this program. All producers who produce a price-supported commodity are eligible for LDP, provided they have completed FSA eligibility requirements and the Posted County Price (PCP) has dropped below the county loan rate. The PCP is calculated daily by the National FSA, based on daily average market rates of major shipping terminals. When the PCP qualifies, LDP's can be paid on grain stored on the farm or in a warehouse, as well as grain sold as delivered or harvested as other than grain in some cases.

One recent important change to LDP procedure requires that production evidence (i.e., ledger sheet) for grain stored in a warehouse be certified by the warehouse operator. The warehouses are aware of this requirement and are prepared to help you.

LABETTE COUNTY ELIGIBLE FOR LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (LAGP)

USDA has just announced the above program to provide \$50 million in state block grants to help livestock producers recover forage production losses due to drought conditions in 2006. Eligible counties had to experience exceptional drought at Category D3 or D4 on the U.S. Drought Monitor. **This program will be handled through the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, NOT FSA.** Administrative details are not known at this time, and each state will decide how to most effectively administer the program to meet the needs of their respective livestock producers. The maximum amount of aid to pay per producer is \$10,000 and cannot exceed the amount of forage production and related losses suffered as a result of drought in 2006. Feedlot cattle are not eligible, nor dairy cattle unless grazed on pasture. For more information, please visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/>, and stay tuned to your local news media.



CRP TOUR SLATED FOR SEPT. 21

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Labette County FSA is hosting a CRP field tour on Sept. 21, 2006. Registration begins at 8:30am at the Overlook Shelter #2 at Big Hill Lake. Bus transportation will be provided from there to the CRP tour sites and back. The tour will conclude with a light lunch at the shelter house about 11:30am.

This is a great opportunity to view and learn about unique CRP practices such as Bobwhite Buffer strips, replacement of rare and declining habitat, shallow water areas for wildlife, and more. FSA staff from the southeast Kansas area will be available to answer questions and discuss CRP practices, and members of area conservation and wildlife groups will have information available as well. In advance, we'd like to thank the Labette Conservation District, Labette County Farm Bureau Board, and Quails Unlimited, Central Plains Region, for helping to sponsor this event. If you are interested in attending this tour, please contact the Labette County FSA at 620-784-5431 for reservations, or email kitra.cooper@ks.usda.gov.

BOBWHITE BUFFER STRIP CRP ACREAGE STILL AVAILABLE

There is still an acreage allotment available for producers in Kansas for CP33, Bobwhite Buffer Strips. About 2500 acres are currently on the table for grabs. Bobwhite Buffer Strips not only increase habitat for quail and other nesting birds, they put those unproductive edges of your fields to work making a little money. And the initial cost of putting Bobwhite buffers on your ground is minimal, as FSA pays up to 50% of the expense and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks will pay up to ANOTHER 40% of the expense, with the remittance of a KDWP voucher, available at the FSA office. If you are interested in this program, don't hesitate to come into the office to make your application. This is a first-come, first-serve program with a signup deadline of December 31, 2007.

Important Dates

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Sept. 21 | CRP 20 th Anniversary Tour |
| Sept. 29 | Final 2006 DCP signatures due |
| Oct. 9 | Office closed for Columbus Day |
| Mid-October | Final 2006 DCP payments and 2006 CRP payments issued |
| Nov. 3 | COC election ballots mailed |
| Nov. 10 | Office closed for Veterans Day |
| Dec. 4 | COC election ballots due |

2006 LOAN RATES

2006 commodity loan rates for Labette County have been announced. These rates are also the basis used for calculating LDP payment rates.

Wheat—\$2.83/bushel
Barley—\$1.70/ bushel
Oats—\$1.34/bushel
Corn—\$2.09/bushel
Grain Sorghum—\$3.44/cwt
Soybeans—\$4.98/bushel
Sunflowers—\$8.71/cwt
Canola—\$7.92/cwt



COC ELECTION COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Producers residing and/or farming in LAA2 (Mount Pleasant, Fairview, Oswego, Elm Grove, Hackberry, and Richland Townships) will be receiving election ballots the first week of November. PLEASE vote and return the ballots to our office by December 4, 2006!

The election of agricultural producers to FSA County committees is important to all farmers and ranchers with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a direct link between the agricultural community and USDA. Committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs their counties offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

LIVESTOCK PREMISES REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT FSA OFFICES

FSA, in partnership with Kansas Animal Health Dept. (KAHD), can register your livestock premises at your local FSA office. This process is done online and takes a short amount of time to complete. Premise registration is the first step through the KanID System to implement the National Animal ID System (NAIS), which is a system created to help protect animal agriculture by tracking the movements of animals in commerce and track potentially damaging animal disease outbreaks. Contact our office for more information or obtain more info online at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6832 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

AGRICULTURE LOANS AVAILABLE FOR RURAL YOUTH

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths, 10 through 20 years of age, to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, FFA and similar organizations. Each project must be a part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of an organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

These loans can finance nearly any kind of income-producing project. Some common projects include livestock and crop production, lawn and garden services, repair shops and roadside stands. Youth loans may not exceed \$5000. The youth loan borrower must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases a co-signer may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of products produced for sale, livestock, equipment and other items purchased with loan funds.

For more information regarding FSA Youth loans, please visit the Montgomery County FSA office at 410 Peter Pan Road, Independence, KS 67301 or call (620) 331-4860.